

OLDEST BEE PAPER  
IN AMERICA

# THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

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IN 1861

DEVOTED TO SCIENTIFIC BEE-CULTURE AND THE PRODUCTION AND SALE OF PURE HONEY.

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**The Honey Crop for 1881.**

In the BEE JOURNAL of September 14th, we requested the bee-keepers of America to send us an abbreviated report of the result of the season's operations, and for the past week the postman who delivers our mail matter has been sorely puzzled as to "what has broken loose among bee-keepers?" to increase our daily receipts of postal cards by hundreds. We must embrace this occasion, while thanking our friends for the promptness with which they have responded to our request, to congratulate them upon the exceedingly favorable report which they have presented.

We had hoped to be able to give the report in this issue, but over-rated our ability to properly collate it in time, and must content ourselves by briefly summarizing. Our returns are from more than 100,000 colonies at the commencement of the season, the majority of which were in bad condition for a vigorous campaign, and had to be put in shape after the harvest commenced. The average yield per colony in the spring we find to be over 75 pounds of surplus. The honey is of most excellent quality, in fact much above the average, and has found very ready sale so far as we can learn, at remunerative prices.

The increase reported amounts to over 65 per cent., and all report their

bees in good to extra good condition—with plenty of bees and the choicest of stores. Several of those who have reported were largely engaged in queen-rearing, for which there was a brisk sale; so that, although their crop reports are not so large as they might have been, their receipts have not been lessened.

We have received no reports from California, but at this writing they are still coming in from all other points, and in our next issue we will be able to give an elaborate report. Enough, however, is now known to justify our wildest anticipations last spring. The reports in some cases are almost fabulous. Those who lost bees last winter could attribute it to misfortune; those who have failed to retrieve their losses, can blame only themselves—we advised them in time.

It is especially pleasing to be able to congratulate our readers on their generous returns, in view of the partial failure of nearly all other rural pursuits; and it but confirms us in asserting that apiculture is as little liable to disaster as any other pursuit, that misfortunes are more easily retrieved, and that the percentage of profit is very much greater as compared with the capital and labor invested.

Mrs. L. Harrison, of Peoria, Ill., has kindly sent us a copy of *The Great West*, and calls attention to the following item:

Bees have done unusually well in Colorado this year. First class native honey can be had for 25 cents per pound. The dry atmosphere and the great amount of flowers in Colorado, make this a profitable State for bee-keepers, and we wonder that more people do not engage in bee-culture and the production of honey. One hundred pounds of honey brings about \$20 in the market—equal to an acre of wheat, ordinary seasons.

Undoubtedly Colorado has a promising future before it as a honey-producing State, and a few such seasons as this has been, will work wonders in developing it.

**Transplanting Trees.**—The Michigan Farmer makes the following very timely remarks on this subject:

Among all the forest trees recommended for transplanting to our prairies, there are none so valuable to the bee-keepers as the linden. It forms not only a beautiful shade, but its rich perfumed blossoms yield to the bees a large quantity of excellent honey. The tree bears transplanting well and is a free grower, and should not be overlooked in making a selection.

**Attractive Packages for Honey.**

As our readers know, the BEE JOURNAL has always been very outspoken in impressing upon apiarists the necessity of employing the most approved and attractive packages in preparing their honey for the market. Not only will it find a more ready sale, but generally at figures in excess of market rates. To make our frequent allusions to this subject more impressive, we make the following extract from a private letter dated Boston, Sept. 23, written by Mr. Frank L. Ripley, of Crocker & Blake, commission and wholesale dealers:

Our market, more than any other, demands the most improved style of packages and crates. We are selling Salisbury's honey, of Geddes, N. Y., who uses a crate 14x6, with glass on the crate but none on the honey, 24 combs, weight from 20 to 23 pounds. It is one of the most salable packages we ever had. Honey will sell twice as quick in a desirable package. I am intending to go down in Maine and work up the honey-raising. They have the finest of honey, but in 10 to 15 lb. packages, just as the bees happen to make, in a frame they whittle out Yankee style. While I glory in being a Yankee, I think there are some things to be learned yet.

To further illustrate—in conversation recently with our son (A.H.N.) a honey dealer in Chicago, our attention was called to some beautiful honey in single comb boxes, which he said retailed readily at 30c. in the grocery stores, while some two-comb boxes (4 lbs., and slightly crooked), from the same producer, of the same quality and collected at the same time, would not retail at more than 23 to 25c., and would "drag at that." He also called attention to the fact that he found it necessary to repack much of his extracted honey from the barrels into 5, 10 and 15 gallon kegs, in order to meet the requirements of the market. "Of course," said he, "the cost of the new packages and the time consumed in repacking amounts to quite a little percentage, but I can make my sales much more readily, and therein lies the profit derived from any business." He said he thought another season he might be obliged to discriminate in prices, in buying extracted honey for the market, in favor of the kegs.

It must be apparent to every reflecting bee-keeper, that if a discrimination is made, and if it pays the city jobber to repack into the neat, convenient, salable kegs, it will pay him to use none other, and thereby not only effect a quicker sale and realize a stiffer price, but also save the cost of the

barrel, which he otherwise throws away.

Since the above was put in type, we have received the following letter bearing upon the same subject, dated September 23, from Messrs. Stearns & Smith, who have for years furnished reliable San Francisco honey quotations for the BEE JOURNAL:

In the Cincinnati market report, in your issue of Sept. 7, 1881, C. F. Muth says that he "paid King Cramer, for a lot of about 2,000 lbs. of comb honey, 17 cents per pound, and every comb perfect and in the Muth section, which speaks well for the producer," etc.; we can beat it. A. W. Hale, of San Bernardino county, shipped us 83 cases (about 5,000 lbs.) of comb honey, in Harbison sections, which was straight and fine. We have rendered him sales at 20 cents per pound for part of it, and will sell the remainder at the same figure. We believe that figure speaks better for the producer, as up to this lot there had been no sales at over 16 cents.

It not only speaks well for the shipper, but volumes for the house which takes an emulative pride in getting the highest prices for its patrons. If bee-keepers will employ their better talents in studying the wants of the market, then exercise their nicest skill in putting it up, there will be no need of centralizing their shipments in one or two commission houses, but, rather, plenty of respectable and responsible firms will not only solicit our consignments, but will prove themselves quite worthy of our confidence.

In order to avoid misunderstanding, we will now inform our readers that our next issue may be two or three days late, in consequence of our attendance at the National Convention; but we trust it will possess sufficient additional interest to compensate for any annoyance from irregularity.

**The Bee Journal in Canada.**—The Essex Chronicle remarks as follows:

We have before us the Weekly Bee Journal, which is devoted to the interests of scientific bee culture, and the production and sale of pure honey, and we must confess that we are highly pleased with it. It contains many thoughtfully written editorials and letters on bee culture; is remarkably liberal in dealing with the views of those who differ from it, and is a reliable authority on this subject. We, with others of this country, have studied considerably this pleasing and classic branch of industry, and can fully appreciate such a journal as we have before us.

We learn, with regret, that Mr. G. M. Doolittle is very sick with malarial fever.



## Live Oak Honey-Dew.

From Mr. E. P. Massey, of Waco, Texas, we have received several twigs of live oak, bearing leaves, acorns and balls, and accompanied with the following letter:

I send for your inspection, two or three small branches of the live oak, containing leaves, balls and acorns. In the fall after rains set in, the green balls are covered with drops of honey-dew, and in some cases the drops run together and drop off the ball. The bees gather large quantities of honey from these oaks, commencing in the morning before I can see a bee three feet from my nose, and this honey-dew continues until long after it gets too cold for bees to fly out. You will find two dry balls of last year's growth. Now, if this honey-dew is put there by an insect, as some claim, why not scatter it all over dry balls, acorns, leaves and limbs? And why is it, that we cannot see these insects? No; the honey exudes from the green balls in drops just perceptible up to drops too large for one bee to carry off at one load.

I have on my lot three of these oaks; under the largest one is my apiary and this tree shades about thirty-five feet of ground when the sun is at high meridian, and I have watched this thing for the eight years that I have been keeping bees. I would like to have your opinion on the subject.

We have had a poor honey season, owing to a thirteen weeks' drouth, yet the hives are all full of honey, and my bees will be in splendid fix for winter, after leaving our table supplied for the winter.

For many years the impression prevailed among naturalists that honey-dew was the excretion of *Aphides* (small insects) on the leaves of trees and plants, and that bees gathered and stored it in times of great scarcity of nectar secretion in the plants; but in later years it has been pretty definitely settled that honey-dew is mostly an exudation of sap or juice through the pores of the leaves and plants, and it is probably composed of the same chemical properties possessed by the nectar which is gathered by the bees from the corollas of flowers. Prof. Cook, in a letter written in December last, definitely settles the question that honey-dew is exuded from plants. He says: "Mr. Trelease has not only tasted the nectar secreted by the plant, but he has discovered the glands which secrete the nectar. These are often so large as to be easily recognized by the unaided vision. Mr. Trelease showed me the glands on species of cassia, acassia, pasiflora—the May-pop of Alabama—prunes, and the cotton plant. On a fine acassia growing in the botanical laboratory of the University, I not only saw the gland, but also the drop of nectar, which I found sweet to the taste." There are also insects which leave a liquid secretion on the leaves which may be gathered by the bees under the same conditions that they would take glucose or any other obnoxious substances; but these conditions occur so seldom that it is not often that this species of honey-dew is encountered.

In noticing the *Rural Canadian*, on page 298, we called it a monthly, having found nothing, on looking it over, to indicate how often it was to be issued. We now learn from its editor that it is to be published semi-monthly, and we cheerfully correct it.



## The Sense of Color in Bees.

The following article is taken from the London, England, *Standard*, of Sept. 8, 1881. It is an editorial criticism on the recent experiments of Sir John Lubbock on the possession of the sense of color by bees. Our reader will peruse it with interest:

Sir John Lubbock has been again experimenting upon bees. The especial object of his investigations has been to ascertain how far the bee possesses the sense of color. He has made use of slips of colored glass, to which the bees have been attracted by drops of honey sprinkled upon them. There are two conditions likely to influence the flight of a bee in pursuit of food. It may be attracted to a flower by its color, or by its odor. It may, in other words, either see the flower or else scent it or smell it.

Some flowers have a powerful odor; others are exquisitely colored. But, according to the reasoning of Sir John Lubbock, bees are unable to distinguish between the odor of one flower and that of another. They scent in each the peculiar fragrance of honey. In their ultimate choice, however, they are determined by the sense of color. Sir John, accordingly, provided himself for his experiments with various pieces of colored glass, green, orange, red, white and yellow. It would seem, indeed, that the resources of the prism were exhausted. An exact account was taken of the number of bees that visited each piece of glass on which a drop of honey was placed as a lure, and it is Sir John Lubbock's opinion that bees are, in a rough kind of way, sensitive to color, and that their favorite color is blue. The statistics which lead him to this conclusion we need not analyse.

When an experienced Naturalist assures us that he has arrived at a definite result, it is not safe to dispute his conclusions. Bees, it would now seem, have a special partiality for blue although we may remark, in passing, the color is uncommon in the vegetable kingdom. We may expect that they will attach themselves to Canterbury bells, to borage, or, indeed, to any flower the petals of which are of a cerulean tinge. Such is the conclusion at which Sir John Lubbock has arrived. Those who have watched the habits of bees will be probably otherwise minded. It is not a safe test to lay down a number of slips of colored glass, with a drop of honey upon each, and to count the number of visits made by itinerant bees to each slip. There may be draughts or currents of wind in the way; or the honey upon one particular slip may be thicker than it is upon the next, and may smell sweeter, and shoot its odor further, and may so attract more bees.

It is, indeed, always difficult to determine how far observations of this kind are to be absolutely accepted. In the present instance Sir John Lubbock finds that his blue slips of glass were visited by a larger number of bees than were the slips of other colors, and from this he draws his general inferences. But if any student of natural history will take the trouble to walk in his garden in the morning and to take especial notice of his borage, his Canterbury bells, and his mignonette, he will find the bees swarming upon the mignonette, while they neglect the borage and the Canterbury bells.

We might, indeed, test Sir John Lubbock's conclusions by a very simple experiment. If bees prefer blue to any other color, they will then prefer a clump of forget-me-not to a clump of mignonette. Let any man grow in his garden side by side a small patch of forget-me-not and a small patch of mignonette, and let him no-

tice which of the two clumps is most frequented by bees. There can be little doubt as to the conclusion at which he will arrive. And the observations which Sir John Lubbock has made prove nothing more than that when all other considerations are equally balanced a bee prefers blue to any other colors.

Mr. Darwin, in his memorable book on the "Origin of Species," has left on record some remarks on the sense of color, to which subsequent investigations have added nothing. He tells us, among other things, that within his own knowledge, from facts reported to him by a good observer, susceptibility in cattle to the attacks of flies has a connection with their color, as is also the liability to be poisoned by particular plants.

Any one who is familiar with horses will know at once that, according to the current of tradition, there are certain colors in horses which denote peculiar characteristics. A strawberry roan or a flea-bitten gray will be strong and hardy. A chestnut will be courageous and mettlesome, but also delicate, and a chestnut with a white blaze and white stockings will be exceptionally liable to slight attacks of ill-health. It is also an ascertained fact that domestication strangely affects the color of animals. There is no wild animal which is piebald. But when domestication has followed through many generations the piebald color usually supervenes. Horses, rabbits, and guinea pigs are apt to be piebald. So, too, with mice and rats. Pigeons are of every possible color. Canaries range from a deep green cinnamon, which is almost black, to a yellow so pale that it is nearly white.

Nothing is stranger than the variety of color to be found in deer in an enclosed park. Some will be absolutely black; others will be dappled and spotted; others, again, will be almost white. And it is worth noticing that, while domestication tends to produce irregular color, or what is commonly called piebaldism, natural development produces color equally brilliant, but more distinctly and certainly distributed. The distribution of tints upon a guinea-pig or a piebald horse is absolutely uncertain. But the arrangement of colors upon a macaw, or a parrot, or a kingfisher is absolutely certain.

Why nature should thus compete with civilization it is impossible to conjecture. According to Mr. Darwin, shells at their southern limit, and when living in shallow water, vary and become more brightly colored than those of the same species taken from greater depths, or in latitudes further distant from the equator. Then there are certain colors peculiar to the London sparrow, and to the English cockle, mussel, and welk. On the other hand, there are hues and iridescences peculiar to the birds and to the shells of tropical climates. No one can account for these characteristics. A volume might be written upon the colors of butterflies, flowers, insects, birds and fish, and the more that was written upon the subject, the less we should probably know about it.

Meantime, it is certain that the laws and conditions of color in nature are but imperfectly understood. For instance, there has never yet been produced such a marvel as a blue rose, although every gardener in Europe has been attempting for year upon year to grow one. And, whatever may be the conclusion of zoologists, we have before us the entire question of the productive influence of color in animal and vegetable life. Nature may attract bees to blue flowers, or may dress the kingfisher in every known color, or may throw the prism upon the neck of the turtle dove, or may dapple the fallow deer. We cannot tell how these tints and hues and markings are procured. It is enough for us to know that they exist.

It would, perhaps, be interesting if Sir John Lubbock, leaving for awhile his ants and bees, would favor us with his views on the sense of color in the

human race. The subject is, for many reasons, difficult. Man, like the lower animals, is occasionally color blind, but there can be little doubt that in the course of infinite generations he has developed a certain definite sense of color, which stands him in good stead.

It is a singular thing that for some years past we have painted our houses and bed-rooms, and lobbies and halls, in a sober and almost penitential tint. The Greeks, whose villas are left in the South of Italy; the Romans, who made Pompeii their Brighton and Herculaneum its Kemp Town; and the Egyptians, from whom Rome, there can be little doubt, adopted their schemes of color in domestic architecture, were all given to strong effects.

Modern taste is more subdued. We rejoice in quiet hues and delicate tints. It would be curious to ascertain whether perception of color follows any definite rule. It would seem, according to Sir John Lubbock, that the sense of color in insects is but imperfectly developed. In animals and birds it becomes stronger. Amongst uncivilized races it assumes the form of a desire for bright tints and marked contrasts. It now has begun to assume an entirely new course, and to seek dim colors and quiet symphonies. One thing, at any rate, is certain, that the sense of color has played a most important part in the development of the human race, and that its subtleties remain as incomprehensible as those of the musical scale.

## Colorado Bee and Honey Show.—The Colorado Farmer says:

Though there were but four or five exhibits of honey, still the fact was plain that this industry is becoming a distinct feature of farm and garden in Colorado. From all accounts, the present year has been a remarkably good one for the products of the apiary. A. L. Peabody had on the grounds a hive which showed the bees at work. Mr. James informed us that from one hive this season he had taken 120 lbs. of the best honey, from which he realized \$30. There is no reason in the world why honey by the ear load should be shipped into Colorado from California and Kansas, when the evidence of profit on bee-culture is made so clear by such a statement. In purity and sweetness, our home produce equals, if it is not even superior to what comes to us from elsewhere. These facts ought to set many to thinking, and from thinking to acting, until instead of perhaps, 5,000 being in the State, 500,000 should be scattered in the valleys and foothills, and honey be so abundant as to be an article for export, and adding largely to the material wealth of the State.

## Seasonable Hints.—The Indiana Farmer gives the following caution and advice:

In almost all cases there is an easy remedy for any trouble with the bees, if ascertained this month. If a colony has not sufficient stores, it may now be fed; while, if you wait until later, there is trouble in so doing. Feeding at this season of the year should always be done with caution. For, although bees are not so much disposed to rob now, as early in the spring, yet, if a colony be left unguarded, so as to give the robbers a chance, they will clean it out on very short notice. Promptness is the spice of successful bee-keeping. Should you discover that anything is wrong with them, make an examination at once, and apply the remedy. Do not wait and think you will fix them some other time, but do it at once.

Badges.—Bee-keepers going to fairs should wear a badge with a gold bee on it. It will serve to introduce him to other bee men. We will send them for 10 cents, post paid.



## CORRESPONDENCE

For the American Bee Journal.

### Ten-Dollar Award for Best Queen.

#### COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

We, the undersigned, committee to award the prize of \$10 offered by Rev. E. L. Briggs, of this place, for the best queen bee, by virtue of and under the conditions by him offered on page 251, AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL for August 10, 1881, beg leave to submit the following as our report thereon:

Before reporting our ratings thereon, it is due both to Mr. Briggs, ourselves and the parties forwarding queens, to state that Mr. B. never informed the committee of whom he had received a queen until after the award was made.

Using 100 points as the standard for each of the four qualifications, the following is the total number of points awarded the respective queens, each member of the committee making his own ratings independent of and without the knowledge of either of the other members:

No.	Name and Address.	Points.
1.	J. Osborn & Bro., Leclaire, Iowa.	1070
2.	Wm. Lossing, Hokah, Minn.	1060
3.	C. H. Lake, Baltimore, Md., failed to arrive.	
4.	Dr. L. P. Wilson, Burlington, Iowa.	1155
5.	M. H. Snyder, Elmwood, Ill.	1015
6.	W. P. Henderson, Murfreesboro, Tenn.	1065

We therefore award to Dr. L. P. Wilson the \$10 prize, and state that she was without doubt the finest queen in every respect we ever saw. Had there been a second prize to award, the above ratings show that the contest would have been very close between Messrs. Henderson and Lossing. The committee were surprised at the size, beauty and disposition of all the queens entered, and extremely gratified at the very choice appearance of every colony in Mr. Briggs' apiary, and the evidence everywhere exhibited of a perfect knowledge of the bees and business throughout his apiary.

A. N. VAN CAMP,  
LYMAN ALLEN,  
I. PIGGOTT,  
Wilton Junction, Iowa, Sept. 20.

For the American Bee Journal.

### The Disposal of Honey.

JAMES HEDDON.

Producers at large have but little knowledge of the fixed laws of commerce; still less of those which fluctuate, among the most important of which is the responsibility of the party to whom we trust our goods either upon 5, 10 or 30 days' credit, or on commission. If a worthless and unprincipled man gets the idea into his head that he will be dishonest, he generally alights upon the producing class, knowing that they have less opportunities to become acquainted with his scheme and himself, than any other set of men. There exists a strong determination in this world, that less than one-half of mankind shall do the work for all, and pretty successfully is this determination carried out, in a lawful and "business" like manner, or unlawful way. Somebody rents a small corner room on some commission street, and perhaps without capital enough to pay that rent more than a month, or a quarter at most in advance, and solicits your consignments. By some pretending circular, he gets in thousands of dollars' worth of goods, and after selling them out bids the business and consignees an affectionate adieu; or, perhaps, "breaks down," with a fine brick house exempt from his creditors. In times like these when money is plentier, such transactions are not so numerous.

I have never lost a cent yet, but I have used caution. I have witnessed the losses of quite a number of beekeepers, as well as other business men.

I feel that I want to know that the party I trust my money or goods with

is good. I mean by good, that I can force a collection for any just claim. I have just read the able article of Mr. Geo. W. House, upon centralizing the trade, published in the BEE JOURNAL of Sept. 14, page 291, also the editor's comments thereon. Truly, the subject is a great one, and of vast importance to producers. I believe I agree with Mr. House in regard to centralizing the product on our markets, where placed by us to be sold on commission, but with the editor as regards buyers. "Supply and demand" make ups and downs in prices. I would like to see the number of buyers large, and their demands great. I know of no better way to increase buyers than to cut down the number of commission men. Buyers are opposed to us; commission men are our agents, and if our honey was to-day all in the hands of one bee-keeper, he would have a "corner" on honey. If in the hands of eight or ten, they would have, or could make a corner on the honey crop, if they could agree so to do. Our agents can do the same. Buyers are "bears," for it is to their interest to depress the wholesale price of honey. Commission men are the "bulls," for they are working for our interests, and hold up the prices to the best of their ability.

I believe it is to my interest not to have your honey, reader, in opposition to mine to any greater degree than I can avoid. I feel sure that it opposes mine less in the same store than it would in another across the way. This is all the interest I have in the matter, you have the same. I do not suppose that all bee-keepers are going to ship to one firm, but I speak of this for the purpose of illustrating the point as taken by Mr. House and followed by me. I think the different names presented by him are well chosen firms, and I have full faith that this selection is made from his best understanding, and without the knowledge of the parties spoken of.

In regard to selling out-and-out, as in comparison with placing on commission, each has its advantages; the out-and-out sale system some very important ones; but as yet comb honey will no doubt bring more money to us put into the hands of the retailer through the commission house, than direct from us in most cases. Extracted honey is more of a staple, with a more uniform grade and price, and I have had by far better success selling out-and-out than by placing on commission. That the same condition of things may become true of comb honey I really hope, but I am of the opinion it has not arrived. I was surprised at learning from Mr. A. H. Newman the extent of his sales, and the various uses for extracted honey. These facts, together with my late impressions of the slow increase (or, rather, late decrease) of colonies, and small surplus yields, remove all fears of overstocking the market, for a time at least.

Dowagiac, Mich., Sept. 17, 1881.

[One great objection to attempting the proposed centralization plan is its impracticability, and that it is impracticable Mr. Heddon virtually admits when he says, "I do not suppose that all bee-keepers are going to ship to one firm." Nor will all, or even the majority, be willing or able to see the peculiar advantages possessed by one commission house for disposing of their honey over others equally as responsible, quite as well known, just as favorably situated, and who would work as faithfully for the interests of those making consignments to them to be disposed of. We do not think we over-rate Mr. Heddon's business tact, when we assume that he would withhold his shipments from the central depot as soon as any, if he became satisfied his interests would be subserved thereby (whether for sale "out-and-out," or to be sold on commission by other parties), even though the ma-

jority of bee-keepers thought him unwise in so doing. Business integrity and honest purposes are not inherent to a few firms alone in the United States, nor can they, however well-intending, expect to reverse the natural laws of trade. Many producers will ship to whom and where they may think to their best interests, regardless of the light in which some, or even the majority, may view it.—Ed.]

For the American Bee Journal.

### Improvement in Bees—Albinos, etc.

S. VALENTINE.

For 35 years I have given more or less attention to the care, culture and breeding of bees. About 6 years ago I procured the very best imported and home-bred Italians, and determined to breed for a high standard of purity, and after careful, frequent and repeated experiments, I find that the purest Italian bees run or develop into albinos, and my acquaintances who follow my method have the same experience.

Now, why is this result? It may be partly owing to American climatic influences and breeding, but if we go back to the imported we find there a vast difference, and if we closely examine the best stocks, we see the white and corresponding colors cropping out in some of their progeny, and by breeding for improvement, we find as the good qualities are brought out the corresponding colors also develop. Now, is this climatic influence and breeding the cause, or is the imported Italian a cross from some other? I am of the opinion that the Italian is not a pure race, but that it has been produced by some amalgamation; I am also of the opinion that there was somewhere in the past a pure bee with white bands somewhat resembling the so-called albino, and from climatic influences and the method of breeding which I have practiced, I believe we have produced a bee that approximates that pure bee which may have existed in the past, if not now. Their kindness in handling, and being a larger bee, carrying larger loads, together with their quality as honey gatherers, leads me to prefer them to the Italian.

I have procured and experimented with nearly all the imported bees, including the Syrians, as well as other varieties that have been extolled for their qualities, yet, after all, I must affirm that for all practical purposes, for beauty, for kindness, for longevity of life, and for the quantity of honey they gather, I find none superior to the albino bee, nor even in all respects equal to it.

In the August number of *Gleanings*, page 409, under the caption "Albino Bees," etc., the editor makes use of the following language:

"When the friends have anything they would like me to see and report on, I shall be most happy to receive it, and will report to the best of my ability; but the fact of my having received a nice present, I hope will in no way influence me in reporting for the benefit of the public. Friend Valentine has very kindly sent me a nice nucleus of his so-called albino bees. With his letter advising us of their shipment, comes his circular, from which we extract the following," etc.

Now this language intimates that he had received a present from me, which might possibly be designed to bias his judgment and elicit a laudatory editorial in behalf of the albino bee. I wish to say that the editor did not receive a present from me. He purchased an albino nucleus, but received no present.

Respecting his comments upon the description of the albino bee in my circular he is in error, as the facts will establish. The albino bees have three distinct yellow bands and three distinct white bands. The white is not as pure as snow, but is distinctly white, and not muddy or clouded, but so dis-

tinctly white that any ordinary eye can distinguish them, as I have frequently seen visitors to my apiary, who are not even amateurs in bee-culture, call attention to.

In my circular I dwelt most particularly on the color by way of description that these features are characteristic of this variety. I did not argue that the color affected the quality of the bee, as he intimated by saying that hens are not any better layers because they were selected from white-feathered ones out of a flock of many colors. The white-feathered hen may or may not be a better layer, but if so, no one would for a moment suppose that the white feathers made the particular difference. The quality of the hen is the character of her laying, but the color of her feathers is the natural appearance by which any one would naturally describe the hen. For all we know upon the subject, the white bands do not condition the good qualities of the albino bee, neither does the color condition the good qualities of any other variety or species; but they do serve as a natural feature by which the variety may be described.

I cannot understand why any one will disparage the albino bee, or our bright American Italians, for the imported, unless it is for the greater profit they may derive from the sale of imported queens; surely, it cannot be for their superior qualities as honey gatherers. I have thoroughly tested this for myself, and find that this is also the experience of my acquaintances who have given attention to bee-culture.

Double Pipe Creek, Md.

From the New York Tribune.

### Bees, Glucose and Honey Comb.

PROF. A. J. COOK.

The following, from an article published in the *Popular Science Monthly*, and written by Harvey W. Wiley, shows what awkward work a man may make when he attempts to write about that of which he knows nothing. The misstatements are mischievous, and, as they have been widely copied, deserve correcting:

"Bees eat glucose with the greatest avidity, or, rather, they act as funnels by which the glucose is poured into the comb. For it is quite true that honey made by bees which have free access to glucose, differs scarcely at all from the glucose itself. But the quantity of honey which a bee will store away when fed on glucose, is truly wonderful. This gluttony, however, rapidly undermines the apiarian constitution, and the bee rarely lives to enjoy the fruits of its apparent good fortune. In commercial honey, which is entirely free from bee medication, the comb is made of paraffine, and filled with pure glucose by appropriate machinery. The honey, for whiteness and beauty rivals the celebrated real white clover honey of Vermont, but can be sold at an immense profit at  $\frac{1}{2}$  the price."

1. Bees do not eat glucose with the greatest avidity. True, they will take it when they can get nothing better, and so they will cider, rotten apples, etc. But bees show their good sense by ignoring grape-sugar whenever they can get good wholesome sweets.

2. It is probably true that bees do merely transfer the glucose to the cells unchanged, but unless Prof. Wiley has made careful analyses, he does not know it.

3. "This gluttony, however, rapidly undermines the apiarian constitution, and the bee seldom lives to enjoy the fruits of its apparent good fortune." There is a grain of truth in this, as during long severe winters, when bees are confined for weeks at a time, this kind of food induces dysentery and death. The same is true of the poorer grades of our common cane sugars, so the wise apiarist never feeds any but coffee A or granulated sugar for winter supplies. Could the bees fly out often, they would receive no harm from glucose. Bees have been wintered safely on a diet of glucose, to the utter exclusion of other food; yet this is exceptional, and the practice



of feeding glucose for this and other reasons, is unwise and impolitic. 4. The statement that comb is made by hand and filled artificially, is indeed a crusher. This never has been done, cannot be done, and indeed, I think I hazard little when I say it never can be done. True, a coarse foundation is made which the bees are able to draw out and utilize, either as brood comb or store comb. But that man can fabricate this delicate structure, with its cells only 1-140th of an inch thick, is claiming what is not only untrue, but impossible. Men can, and do adulterate liquid or extracted honey with glucose, and make a beautiful syrup, so far as mere appearances go; but nature, and we may well thank her, has set at naught every effort to counterfeit comb honey. That, so far as the honey is concerned, is pure, clean and wholesome. Let no one, be he Professor or layman, ever dare to defame it.

Mich. Ag'l Coll., Lansing.

For the American Bee Journal.

### More About Fertile Workers.

E. A. THOMAS.

In the BEE JOURNAL for Aug. 31, I noticed a friendly criticism on my article published in the BEE JOURNAL Aug. 10, by Mr. W. H. Andrews.

As Mr. Andrews has failed to comprehend my meaning, a few words of explanation may not be out of place, and may serve to make the matter more clear.

I am more than ever convinced that there is a difference in colonies having fertile workers, as I have just treated a case where the bees refused to rear a queen from brood given them. Such cases may be very rare, and, judging from Mr. Andrews' remarks upon this point, I think he never had such a case.

I remarked in my article, that I had never had a full colony with a fertile worker, and Mr. A. makes the following comment upon it:

"This implies at least one, and may be two or three things: 1. That Mr. Thomas never had a full colony. 2. That full colonies never lose their first queens. 3. That when they do lose their first queens, they are never without the means of supplying their loss."

That Mr. A. should doubt my ever having had a full colony, is the height of absurdity. A man who has been engaged exclusively in bee culture for years, as I have been, could hardly make the business profitable without a "full colony." After having shipped over 50 colonies during the last spring, I now have more than I know what to do with.

Mr. A. will please remember that I was speaking of my bees in my article, and when he says, "3rd, that when they do lose their first queens, they are never without the means of supplying their loss," he hits the nail square on the head. My full colonies are never without the means of rearing a queen, as I always insert frames of comb containing eggs into colonies having young queens, every two days, so that, should the queen be lost, the bees have the means of supplying her loss, and, so long as they have the means to rear another queen, there is no danger of their having a fertile worker.

If Mr. A. and all other apiarists will take this pains with colonies having young queens, they will never be troubled with fertile workers. Having a large number of nuclei to care for, I have not thought that it paid to insert brood, so that, should the first queen be lost, there will be no brood of any kind in the hive, and a nucleus in this condition soon becomes desperate. I raise my queen cells in full colonies, and insert in, nuclei when ready to hatch, so that they will have no brood until the first queen begins to lay, and it is my experience, that a colony without any brood of any kind will accept a fertile worker much sooner than one having even sealed

brood. Mr. Andrews says he never saw the bees treat a fertile worker with the respect and consideration due a queen. I must conclude that he never saw one of those rare cases which I mentioned, and to which my remarks had reference.

Coleraine, Mass.

For the American Bee Journal.

### Report of Honey Crop for 1881.

CHAS. DADANT & SON.

We give the following detailed account of our five apiaries, to show how much the crop can vary in apiaries not very far distant from each other. Our Champeau apiary is situated about 4 miles from here, yet the quantity of honey is very different:

No. of colonies last fall, about 425  
Lost about ..... 53  
Sold about ..... 100

We had, therefore, about 272 colonies, or a few more, to begin with.

### REPORT OF THE CROP.

Apiary	Colo- nies.	No. now.	Crop in July.	Crop in Sept.
Baxter	70	85	1,800	1,300
Champeau	50	65	2,200	1,250
at Home	80	80	2,000	180
Villemain	40	60	1,500	380
Jack	32	40	800	2,000
	272	330	8,300	5,110

These 13,400 lbs. are all extracted, except about 500 lbs. of comb honey. Although we designate the 5,110 lbs. as fall honey, it is mainly spring honey, having been gathered mostly on white clover in July and first of August.

Our crop, especially at home and in the Villemain apiary, was shortened on account of the dry weather. We have had no rain of any account for more than two months, and very warm weather all the time. The Jack apiary is near the Mississippi bottoms, which were covered with polygonaceae as soon as the water receded. Our business of foundation making having increased, we were unable, for lack of time, to make as many swarms as we had anticipated.

Hamilton, Ill.

For the American Bee Journal.

### Palestine or Holy Land Bees.

WM. J. WHITFIELD.

We were fortunate in having 2 of the Palestine queens come through the past winter in good condition, to start with in the spring, but as I had Italians that seemed to be in quite as good condition, I thought very little of them at first.

About June 1, I noticed they had more than double the bees on the wing than any other colony, and I took a glance at the inside, which showed 12 frames of brood in one, and 9 in the other, frames 1 foot square. I now began to watch them with interest. They gave just double the increase, and each colony gave  $\frac{1}{2}$  more honey than the best Italians, so I thought I would try and rear a few queens, re-queen all hybrids and those having old Italian queens. I reared the queens, but had no time to remove the old queens to make room for the young, till Saturday, Sept. 17. In some of the hybrid Italians, I found a few cells of brood just ready to hatch, but not an egg or cell with unsealed larvae in any of them. The Palestine queens I found laying without exception, and all crowded with bees and honey. I went to Mr. Jones on Sept. 20, and procured one of his Island-mated queens to start another year with. I saw about 150 of his hives opened; his 3 men were employed in fixing them up for winter. There were Italians, Cyprians and Palestines, about in equal numbers, but only the Palestines were still laying. This decided me to take 2, instead of 1 queen. I was not a little disappointed to find that Mr. Jones had gone to the London, Ont., Exhi-

bition, but I had the pleasure of inspecting a number of fine queens just arrived from Mr. Frank Benton, all in fine condition, having 2 combs 8 inches square and about a quart of bees with each. I would have obtained one of them, but, as Mr. Jones was not there, the men in charge would not part with one, not having orders to do so, although I offered three times the amount I would have given for one at this time of the season, for I desired to see what they would do.

Many mothers would not handle babies with as much care as these queens had.

Dundas, Ont., Sept. 22, 1881.

For the American Bee Journal.

### The First Movable-Frame Hive.

C. J. ROBINSON.

I have written to Chas. H. Lake, of Baltimore, requesting him to take to the National Convention at Lexington, the first movable-comb frame hive seen in America. The hive with a colony of bees in it, was presented by King Otto, of Greece, to the lamented Richard Colvin, late of Baltimore.

The Grecian hive is four stories, that is four tiers of frames one above the other. The frames are about 8 inches deep and 13 inches in length. One side wall of the hive swings open like a door and the comb-frames slide in suspended on pendants and rabbets like the Langstroth frame. The hive proper is of double-walls—a hive within a hive with a vacant or dead-air space between the inner walls and outside walls. There are 4 iron staples or rings for suspending the hive between trees.

It was from an inspection of this hive that Rev. Mr. Langstroth got the idea of his movable-frame hive; at least I so understood it at that time, and Mr. Colvin so reported it. Mr. L. contrived a shallower hive than the Grecian model, using only 2 tiers of frames of greater depth and length, and opening from the top, allowing the frames to be lifted instead of being slid in from one side. I still use a hive having the features of the Grecian model except my hives open from the top. The dead-air feature of said hive brings in and utilizes a principle that is or might be the salvation of out-door wintering. The old hive from Greece is far superior to any chaff hive. Mr. Lake has a hive that he styles "Old Reliable," which is the result of years of remodeling of the Grecian hive, and the best hive for both summer and winter in use.

The old hive is a curiosity of great interest, and I hope it will be on exhibition by Mr. Lake.

Richford, N. Y.

For the American Bee Journal.

### The Purity of Drones.

W. H. ANDREWS.

In the Manual of the Apiary, page 89, Prof. Cook says:

"The fact that parthenogenesis prevails in the production of drones, has led to the theory that from a pure queen, however mated, must ever come a pure drone."

Doctors widely differ as to the fact that led to this theory, and then admitting the fact, some of them dispute the theory—"the deduction." If this deduction cannot be sustained in practice, then it is true that too much theory has wrought hundreds of thousands of dollars damages to the beekeepers of North America, since the introduction of the Italian bee. The practical, not theoretical, is what the yeomanry of our fraternity most need, and now demand, though they feel great trepidation; they would be willing to shed their shoes when they approach this field, if the paths over it were cleared of thorns.

Whether parthenogenesis prevails in the production of drones or not, or whether the theory said to rest upon that assumption is sustained by sound

logic or not, may never be settled among the learned, but what is that to the practical bee-keeper? We know that an unmated queen can lay eggs that will hatch out drones, and drones only, and we also know that a mated queen will not lay drone eggs into worker comb, while we as well know that an unmated queen will lay her eggs into worker comb as readily as into drone comb. Now it is quite as easy for a bee-man who cannot read Greek, to imagine that the mating of a queen of one race with a drone of another race, affects the blood of her drone progeny, as it is for the savants to imagine that the fact of mating controls the queen in the disposition of her drone eggs in the comb, and that the want of mating leaves her reckless as to the welfare of her offspring, and allows her to become the mother of an innumerable host of dwarfs.

Let the doctors tell us in plain English, that an Italian queen mated with a German drone will produce drones uniform with those produced by her sister, mated with a drone of her own nationality. Then it will not be out of order for him to inform us that a black queen mated with a yellow drone will not produce drones showing plainly that they, too, have a parentage to be proud of.

McKinney, Tex.

## CONVENTION

### Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association.

The above named body held its annual meeting on three successive evenings, during the second week of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition, Sept. 14, 15, 16. A brief summary of the proceedings, condensed from the reports given by the Toronto *Globe* and *Mail*, will show what our apicultural friends over the border have been saying and doing:

The second annual convention of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association, commenced on Tuesday evening in the executive room of the City Hall. There was a large attendance.

At 8 o'clock the President, Mr. D. A. Jones, of Beeton, took the chair, and in a few brief remarks stated the object for which the meeting was held, after which the Secretary, Mr. R. McKnight, of Owen Sound, read the minutes of the first annual Convention, which was held in Toronto during the Exhibition last year. The minutes were adopted.

The Secretary called the roll, after which Messrs. Dougall and Sandford were appointed a committee to audit the books and accounts.

The following gentlemen were appointed a committee to select subjects for discussion at the meeting this evening: Messrs. Hall, Wells, Clarke, Phillips, Woodward, Drs. Duncan and Nugent.

The President in his address referred to long speeches, either written or extemporaneous, as an objectionable feature of conventions, and suggested that the speeches should be short and pithy. Never was there such a severe winter in the experience of bee-keepers as last winter, in fact, many who were considered the most scientific bee-raisers in the country had lost all they possessed in consequence of the severe weather. The yield of honey last season was small, but the season was especially good for breeding. The price of honey, however, will be high, as butter is scarce and high in price. He advised all who had honey to sell, to hold back for a time, and a remunerative price would be insured. One gentleman had told him the previous day, that honey he would gladly have accepted 10 cts. per lb. for a few weeks ago he had since refused 15 cts. for. The hives, he said, should be carefully prepared for wintering, and he would advise all present to make



such provision as would insure the safe-keeping of the bees. He himself had a number of fine hives spoiled for want of this. The proper regulating of bees in the fall was much more important than the wintering of them. "There never has been," continued the President, "such a fine apiary exhibit in the world as the present one at the exhibition grounds, and it reflected great credit on the association." (Cheers). In speaking of the various species of bees, he said he had been led to entertain a very high opinion of the *Apis dorsata* species, accounts of which had been very flattering. He had been doing his best to obtain a hive of them, but his efforts had been unsuccessful so far. He trusted to secure them shortly. There was another species of bee said to be even better than this, which a European friend of his had written to him about, and he hoped to be able to say more about it shortly. Canada, he said, was the finest country in the world for raising bees, and he was confident that 20 per cent. or more could easily be made by entering into the business with a will. Judging from the comparative success with which his bees were wintered this year, in view of its being such a severe one, it was fair to infer that any sort of bees could be successfully raised in Canada. After paying a high compliment to the Secretary, to whom he stated the success of the Association was largely due, the President resumed his seat amid much applause.

The Rev. W. F. Clarke, on being requested, addressed the meeting. The fact, he said, that the membership was increasing so rapidly, was a good evidence of the success of the Association. The great hindrance to the successful raising of bees was the fact the majority of people imagine that all they have to do is to set the hive on a stand and leave the rest to the bees. This is a mistake. Bees, like every other animal which is kept for the benefit of man, must be provided and cared for, or they will never prove successful. People should inform themselves on the subject before they go into the business, and then theory must be conjoined with practice, for the subject requires a great deal of thought and vigilance. People grumbled about bees being more "bother than they were worth," but he would venture the assertion that there was not a pursuit which, if properly managed, would prove more remunerative than that of bee raising. The introduction of Italian bees to Canada had greatly benefitted the old stock. After dwelling on the qualities of the President, Mr. Jones, as a practical apiculturist, and on the great benefit that had accrued to the Association in consequence of his connection with it, Mr. Clarke concluded by stating that the Government should be asked to aid in the advancement of the industry, from which he said every township in the country might derive a revenue of \$10,000 annually if the industry were properly managed.

#### SECOND EVENING.

Mr. D. A. Jones, President, in the chair, and a large number of members were present. The Chairman stated that two cakes, one a ginger and the other a sponge, both sweetened with honey, had been sent to the Convention by Mrs. J. G. Wallace, of Brighton.

The cakes, being cut up, were passed to the members present, who discussed the merits, which, it might be said, were uncommonly good. It was stated that a cake sweetened with honey was better to keep than one sweetened with sugar, as the honey would keep it moist. The Chairman stated that if ladies would use honey in making cakes, they might do their baking in the winter time when it was cool, and have fresh cakes all through the summer.

On motion of Mr. Beech, seconded by Mr. S. Webster, a vote of thanks to Mrs. Wallace, who had kindly sent the cakes, was passed.

It was moved by W. F. Clarke, and seconded by N. B. Colcock, "That

among the many uses of honey, its value, as a sweetening in the processes of cookery is one of the most important, especially in view of the adulteration practiced upon almost all grades of sugar, and this meeting takes the opportunity afforded by the presentation of Mrs. Wallace's excellent cakes, to call the attention of the public to the great superiority of honey to sugar in all cases in which an absolutely pure sweet is desired." Carried.

#### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION.

The Committee appointed to decide upon the subjects for discussion, reported the following: 1. Wintering. 2. Springdwindling. 3. Deep vs. shallow frames. 4. Uses of comb foundation. 5. What is the cause of a colony fighting and killing others? 6. Final preparation of the hive for wintering, disposition of combs, etc. 7. Best mode of obtaining the largest yield of comb honey in sections. 8. Is pollen injurious to wintering? 9. Foul brood, its prevention and treatment. 10. The best way to winter bees in Muskoka.

The Secretary, who had also acted as Treasurer, read his report. He stated that a few weeks ago he had sent to the members a form of entry for the exhibition, together with a printed circular for the purpose of ascertaining what progress had been made in bee culture by the members. Twenty-seven members out of 68 had reported, and from them he had gathered the following: Last fall they put into winter quarters 1,534 colonies, or an average of 56 colonies each. Of these there were 1,254 taken out alive in the spring; 216 were lost by spring dwindling, leaving an aggregate working force of 905 colonies, or an average of 37 per member. At the time of reporting these, 906 were increased to 1,993, or an average of 74 colonies per member, as against 37 in the spring. This showed that notwithstanding the unusual mortality among bees last winter, there are now in the hands of these 27 members, 20 per cent. more bees than at the corresponding time last fall. The honey taken by the members who reported, amounted on an aggregate to 73,790 pounds, or an average of 81½ pounds for each colony held at the opening of the honey season. Over ¼ of the amount was taken by the extractor.

The report being found satisfactory, a vote of thanks was tendered to the Secretary for the satisfactory manner in which he had transacted the business of the Association during the year.

The meeting then went into discussion on the first subject, which was

#### WINTERING.

Several of the members related their experience in wintering bees. Mr. Hall, of Woodstock, stated that he commenced preparing on the 15th of September, and wintered until 15th of April. There was a cellar under the bee-house, which was built with walls 16 inches thick, packed with sawdust. When he put them out he had no dwindling; last year he had lost 2 out of 137 colonies.

President Jones stated that there was no surer way of killing bees than by disturbing them late in the fall. He had lost \$1,000 worth of queens received from his Cyprus apiary late in December, to accommodate which he had been obliged to break up and divide a number of colonies. He always tried to get as many young bees late in the fall as possible, and when once the winter cluster was formed, he preferred not to disturb it.

In reply to a question, Mr. Jones stated that when bee-keepers were troubled with mice, they should use arsenic, granulated white sugar and flour in equal parts, as a poison.

Mr. Wallace, of Brighton, who had put in 32 last fall, had taken them all out. He had lost none by robbing, and none by dwindling. He had increased his by 67. He kept the temperature at 38° to 42°.

Mr. J. T. Beech, of Burnt River P. O., near Lindsay, stated that his mode

of wintering differed from those who had given their experiences. He had commenced with 1 colony, and now he had 40. The President had said that if he disturbed bees in the fall it was not good for them. He, Mr. Beech, had disturbed his in December, and some which he had out of doors were in better condition in the spring than those he had placed in the cellar. There were dead bees found in the hives left in the cellar, and he did not pay much attention to the hives there. The cellar was well ventilated, for his family used it for ordinary purposes. They kept potatoes beside the hives, and the bees kept beside the potatoes, and kept well.

While the discussion of wintering was in progress, His Worship, the Mayor, entered, and was given a seat beside the President.

It was moved by Dr. Nugent, Strathroy, and seconded by Mr. Wallace, "That the Bee-Keepers' Association, in Convention assembled, desire to express their appreciation of the efforts of the Industrial Exhibition Association, of Toronto, to provide suitable accommodation for the proper display of the products with which they are most closely identified, but also of all classes of agricultural and manufacturing products, and to further express their opinion, that if a Dominion Exhibition is held in the year 1882, it should be held in the city of Toronto, and that aid should be granted thereto by the Dominion and Ontario Governments." Carried.

After a limited discussion of several of the other subjects, the meeting adjourned.

A very interesting open air meeting of bee-keepers, was held in the morning in the tent adjoining the building devoted to the apian display on the exhibition grounds. Among the subjects discussed, was the difficulty in feeding up queens so as to get them to breed again, after they have ceased breeding in the fall; the proper distance between combs for wintering; keeping out moisture and mice; treatment for foul brood; queens laying drone eggs in worker cells; feeding bees; the existence of "honey dew," and how it is formed, and many other interesting topics.

Mr. Jones exhibited a number of frames containing queen cells in different stages of development. The discussions were also listened to by a goodly number of persons who are desirous of learning something about bee culture, and the keenest interest was manifested by all.

#### THIRD EVENING.

After discussing the various questions which were placed before the meeting, Mr. McKnight suggested the necessity of taking steps to secure an Act of Incorporation.

Mr. S. Webster then moved, seconded by Dr. Nugent, that the President and Secretary of this Association, be instructed to take the necessary steps to secure an Act of Incorporation from the Ontario Legislature, in the names of the officers of the association for the coming year; also to use their endeavors to obtain a grant in aid of this organization, and to put it on the same footing as the Dairymen's Association, Fruit Growers' and Poultry Associations of the Province of Ontario. Carried unanimously.

The following gentlemen were appointed honorary members of this association: The Mayor of Toronto, the President of the Toronto Exhibition Association, Mr. Withroy, Mr. Jas. Mills, Principal of the Guelph Agricultural College, Prof. Brown, Guelph, and whatever other gentlemen the Executive Committee deem advisable.

The following resolution was carried: Resolved, "That the encouragement to the bee-keeping interest of the country by the Toronto Industrial Association, is an example that ought to be followed by all similar bodies throughout the Province of Ontario and the Dominion of Canada, to secure which desirable result this meeting urges upon the bee-keepers

the importance of pressing the matter upon the attention of the directors of exhibitions in all parts of the country. In moving the above resolution, Dr. Nugent took occasion to remark upon the little interest taken in bee-keeping by the Provincial Exhibition, which was shortly to be opened at London. The prizes offered did not amount to much more than \$15.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The President begged to remind the members that he was not a candidate for re-election; indeed, he would regard it as a great favor to be allowed to retire, on account of the large amount of private business which he had to attend to.

The election of officers for the ensuing year, resulted as follows: Hon. Lewis Walbridge, Belleville, President; Mr. J. B. Hall, Woodstock, first Vice-President; Rev. W. F. Clarke, Listowel, second Vice-President; Mr. R. M. McKnight, Owen Sound, Secretary and Treasurer; and Messrs. D. A. Jones, Beeton, Dr. Nugent, Strathroy, W. C. Wells, Phillipstown, Dr. Shaver, Stratford, and S. Cornell, Lindsay, Committee.

Mr. D. A. Jones, and Rev. Mr. Clarke were appointed a delegation to the North American Bee-Keepers' Association, to be held at Lexington, Ky., Oct. 5-7, 1881.

Mr. Jones vacated the chair, and Mr. Hall, first vice-president, took the same.

A unanimous vote of thanks was passed to the retiring President, Mr. Jones, for the able way in which he had discharged his duties during the past year.

Mr. Jones thanked his friends, and promised to do all in his power for the association in the future, as he had done in the past.

A vote of thanks was also passed to the Secretary and Treasurer, for his valuable services during the year.

Mr. Jones then moved that the hearty thanks of the association be passed to *The Mail* and *The Globe* for the excellent reports which had been given of the meetings of the convention, both at the City Hall, and on the grounds during the exhibition. The motion was carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Mayor and Corporation, for the use of the room in which the meetings had been held.

On motion of Mr. Jones, it was resolved to hold the next meeting of the association in Toronto, during the exhibition of next year. The meeting then adjourned.

#### Kentucky Bee-Keepers' Association.

The second annual convention of the Kentucky State Bee-Keepers' Association, will be held in the Exposition Building, in Louisville, Ky., on Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 12 and 13, 1881.

A fine display of bee-keepers' supplies, honey, etc., is expected, and some of the most prominent bee-keepers in America, who will be in attendance at the National Bee-Keepers' Convention, at Lexington, Oct. 5, 6, and 7, are expected to attend. All are invited. N. P. ALLEN, Pres.

The Southwestern Wisconsin Bee-Keepers' Association will hold its next meeting in Platteville, Grant Co., Wis., Nov. 30, 1881.

N. E. FRANCE, Sec., Platteville, Wis.

The Michigan State Bee-Keepers' Association, will convene at Battle Creek, on Thursday, Dec. 8, 1881. We have reason to expect one of the largest and most interesting meetings we have ever held. Let all arrange to be present. All District Associations should send delegates. Each person should come with their best experience in their hands, ready to hand it over to the others of the fraternity. It is hoped that all will bring the fullest report possible from their region. Commutation rates are expected on railroads. A. J. COOK, Pres.

T. F. BINGHAM, Sec.



## SELECTIONS FROM OUR LETTER BOX

**More Honey than Ever.**—I should indeed feel lost without the weekly visits of the BEE JOURNAL. I suffered severely last spring, with the majority of bee-keepers, but have done well this year, therefore produced more honey per hive than during any one year since I began the business. The dry weather has shortened the product to some extent here, but nothing compared to many other places in our state. The local demand for honey is all that I could ask for. Success to the BEE JOURNAL.

SAMUEL STEVENSON, M. D.  
Morenci, Mich., Sept. 24, 1881.

**No Surplus.**—My bees are not doing well this season; no increase and no surplus honey. I have been feeding some time. Bees on the bottom lands are doing well. I lost all the bees I had in chaff hives, last winter. I shall not try them again very soon. I prefer a nail-keg for wintering purposes to a chaff hive.

H. W. HITT.  
Merritt, Ill., Sept. 26, 1881.

**Sample Copy for Next Year.**—I was very much pleased to note the change in size and general appearance of our BEE JOURNAL. I did not like the Weekly BEE JOURNAL in its original form, but I belong to those who are not willing to complain, unless it should be a very essential error. Some single articles which have recently appeared in the BEE JOURNAL, are worth to me more than the price of the JOURNAL for the whole year.

WM. S. BARCLAY.  
Beaver, Penn., Sept. 23, 1881.

**California Honey Crop.**—Permit me to correct an extract that you copied from the San Francisco Examiner, in regard to the honey crop of Southern California. While we are always ready and willing to present our productions to the consideration of the public, we are unwilling to be misrepresented. He says "Last year the honey crop of San Diego county amounted to 1,291,800 lbs., and this year it will be larger." It is now a well established fact that we will not produce  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a crop. I cannot say how much the other counties referred to will make, but I do know that a great many apiarists will not ship a pound this season. In a few favored localities as much as  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a crop will be made. A great many others, none. The spring was too cold. Our bees are in good condition and with a fair season we can produce more honey and a better article, than any other county in Uncle Sam's domain. I think I have found a new bee food, especially for this section, it is the black-eyed pea, called by western people black-eyed bean. It is the old fashioned Southern black-eyed pea, most excellent for man and beast, and has proved a splendid bee forage with me; the bees are on it early and late. Here the vines produce two crops, so that it gives early and late feed for bees. There is no better bean or pea grown for the table than this, either green or dried. At this time the vines or in full bloom, second crop.

M. C. ALVORDSON.  
Santa Maria, Cal., Sept. 18, 1881.

**About 330 lbs. of Honey from one Colony.**—I wish to show what I have done alone with 108 colonies in spring. I now have 208 colonies, and 15,100 lbs. of extracted and 4,500 lbs. of comb honey. My best yield from one colony is 330 lbs. of comb honey and its increase, which was 4 artificial swarms, with plenty of honey. I have kept bees 16 years. I think I know how to get honey, if I cannot winter so well as some. My comb honey is all sold at 16c. for white and 12c. for dark.

W. L. COGGSHALL.  
West Groton, N. Y., Sept. 19, 1881.

**Bingham's Bee Report.**—I had in the spring 55 colonies, have now 119; extracted, light, 3,000 lbs.; bees in fine condition for winter. The scarcity of fruit has made a prompt demand and all our honey is sold but 800 lbs. Sold at 10c. in 30 lb. tin cans, and all returned or paid for by the purchaser.

T. F. BINGHAM.  
Abronia, Mich., Sept. 22, 1881.

**My Honey Yield.**—I wintered with a loss of only 10 per cent. I started with 70 colonies in March. Many of the queens were inefficient and not having time to replace them (except four or five) the whole surplus was taken from 50 colonies. My total product is 3,500 lbs.; of which 2,800 was comb honey. Too much cannot be said in favor of comb foundation. Its use was the key to whatever success I have had. Had I used full sized starters for the sections I am sure I would have saved many times the cost. Very little, if any, surplus has been made by bees managed under the old system.

J. W. PORTER.  
Charlottesville, Va., Sept. 27, 1881.

**Nearly 140 lbs. to the Colony in Spring.**—I had 108 colonies in the spring, have now 131 colonies. Have extracted 9,000 lbs. of light honey and 5,400 lbs. of dark honey; comb honey 325 lbs.; total, 14,725 lbs. Bees are now in good condition. I have not got quite through extracting yet, so have had to estimate a little, but it is very close to what I will actually have.

O. O. POPPLETON.  
Williamstown, Iowa, Sept. 26, 1881.

**Chaff Hives.**—I had 8 good colonies in spring and 2 queenless. I have extracted no honey, but I have taken 700 lbs. comb honey, mostly in one pound sections. Bees are now in good condition. My bees wintered without loss in double-walled chaff hives out of doors. I had plenty of loose chaff on top of frames as an absorbent. Most of the bees around me died.

E. F. SMITH.  
Smyrna, N. Y., Sept. 19, 1881.

**The Fall Honey Crop.**—The honey crop here has been a failure, on account of the drouth. I have had the blues for some time, thinking I would have to feed again this fall, but we had a good rain 2 weeks ago, and the golden rod has been giving us plenty of honey, and I think they will have plenty for winter. Let me urge all bee-keepers to see that their bees have plenty of honey, and pack them in chaff before the weather gets too cold. Success to the BEE JOURNAL. I know I have made many times its cost by taking the advice of experienced beekeepers.

B. M. LINGLE.  
Paoli, Ind., Sept. 26, 1881.

**Drones from an Unfertile Queen.**—In Dr. Tinker's article on "Reproduction in the Honey Bee," on page 299, vol. 17, of the BEE JOURNAL, he says: "It has not yet been shown that the drone of virgin queens possess full virile powers. Many have endeavored to get queens fertilized early in the spring by such drones, but have failed." I have had but little experience of this kind, and have given it very little thought. I have always believed that drones from a virgin queen did have full virile powers, and will give a case of my own that confirms me in that belief: In the winter of 1878-9, I had a strong colony of bees that lost its queen during the winter, and reared another from the eggs left when the old queen was lost. When I examined, in March, I found 3 combs partly filled with drones. On the 12th, I removed the queen and gave them a frame from another hive with eggs and young brood. On the 20th, I noticed drones flying, and on the 28th, I found my young queen hatched, on the 11th of April she commenced to lay worker eggs, and proved to be a good queen, and was purely mated. I know of no other Italian bees within 4 miles, and did not have any other drones flying until May. I may be

mistaken about my queen mating with one of the drones from the virgin queen, but think it hardly probable that any others were flying that early, as it was a very wet and backward spring.

L. R. JACKSON.  
Fairland, Ind., Sept. 23, 1881.

**Hardly an Indorsement.**—On page 302 of the BEE JOURNAL, you say your correspondent, Jas. E. Cady, "does serious injustice to Mr. Heddon." If you will examine page 15 of Mr. Heddon's circular and price-list, and see what he says under the head of "Dollar Queens," you will see that your correspondent does Mr. Heddon no injustice. If this is not a voluntary puff for H. A. Burch & Co., please tell us through the BEE JOURNAL what it does mean, for I confess I cannot understand it otherwise.

L. K. DICKEY.  
High Point, Ga., Sept. 24, 1881.

[The following, which had escaped our notice, is the passage above referred to:

"I am not prepared to furnish my customers with dollar or warranted queens during 1881, but will say that having visited the apiary of H. A. Burch & Co., of South Haven, Mich., and closely inspected their bees, have found them more uniformly pure than any I have seen; hence, purchases of dollar and warranted queens from their stock will likely prove satisfactory."

True, it does look like a voluntary "puff" for Mr. Burch's bees; and almost any of us might have said perhaps nearly the same of anybody whose specialty we considered really superior, and we do not think Mr. Heddon anticipated any other construction would be placed upon it.

We have received many complaints against Mr. H. A. Burch, in fact, quite enough to fill an issue of our paper, but as we have published enough to satisfy our readers we had good reasons for discontinuing his advertisement, we shall print no more of them.—ED.]

**A Lady's Experience.**—I had 37 colonies in the spring—have now 54. I have extracted 10 lbs. of light honey and 50 lbs. of dark; comb honey 3,700 lbs. Bees are now in good condition.

HATTIE A. HEATON.  
Charlton, N. Y., Sept. 26, 1881.

**The Weekly One Good Meal.**—I like the BEE JOURNAL very much, as a weekly. It does not contain so much but it can be read at a single sitting. Bees have been nearly a failure with me this year.

M. C. STEVENS.  
La Fayette, Ind., Sept. 28, 1881.

**No Exhibits at Toledo, O., Fair.**—Since all items of information on the honey question may be of use to some, I will say that I attended the "State Fair" at Toledo, O., and exhibited a case of honey. There was no other exhibit of any thing in the apiarian line from the States of Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. This shows how many bees were destroyed last winter in this part of the country.

L. EASTWOOD.  
Waterville, O., Sept. 26, 1881.

[Does it not rather show a lack of interest and enterprise in the beekeepers of that section of the country? Until lately, apathy has been the rule; now an interest is being awakened, that will, we hope, be lasting.—ED.]

**Remedy for Ants in the Apiary, Etc.**—On Oct. 28, I prepared 38 colonies, in good condition, for winter, on their summer stands. I lost but 1 up to the 1st of March. On May 1, I had only 18, and nearly all of them weak; 1 was queenless. My present number is 21, mostly Italians, in good condition, but some require feeding, as they have lost, on an average, 11 pounds since the

honey season closed. I have extracted 771 lbs. of honey, and have 29 lbs. of comb honey. As a remedy for ants, I have used fine salt for 20 years, and seldom have to make the second application. What a weekly intellectual feast is to a monthly surfeit, such is the Weekly to a monthly journal. Long may the welcome Weekly BEE JOURNAL prosper. J. L. WOLCOTT.  
Bloomington, Ill., Sept. 26, 1881.

**Honey Season in Massachusetts.**—The honey season here has been one of the poorest I have known for years. Raspberries and white clover proved a failure, on account of bad weather, and basswood did but little better. It has been a good season for increase, there being just honey enough to keep the bees breeding rapidly. I am more than pleased with the form in which the BEE JOURNAL is to be published for 1882—so convenient for binding. I cannot well see how any one (even if they have only 1 colony of bees), can do without it.

E. A. THOMAS.  
Coleraine, Mass., Sept. 8, 1881.

**But Little Surplus Honey.**—I have 3 small apiaries. No. 1 had 3 colonies last spring; 8 now; 6 of them making surplus; all strong; are doing well; Italians; Langstroth hives. No. 2 had 10 colonies last spring; 26 now; all strong; are doing well; hybrids; Langstroth hives. No. 3 had 16 colonies last spring; 28 now; all strong; are mostly blacks; Langstroth hives. I have received but little surplus honey, but all three apiaries are now doing well on smartweed.

S. GOODRICH.  
Urbana, Ill., Sept. 26, 1881.

**A Correction.**—In No. 37, page 292, "Ants in the Apiary," 3rd line from bottom, read 1 ounce, instead of 10.

A. B. McLAVY.  
Bastrop, Tex., Sept. 20, 1881.

Owing to the fact that the time of the regular meeting of the Union Bee Association, at Shelbyville, Ky., conflicts with the time fixed by the executive committee, to hold the National at Lexington, the meeting of the Union, at Shelbyville, has been postponed till the 20th of October.

G. W. DEMAREE, Sec.  
Christiansburg, Ky., Sept. 3, 1881.

The Rock River Valley Beekeepers' Convention, will be held at Monroe Center, on the third Tuesday in October. We hope a good attendance will be the outcome, and the bee interest revived.

D. A. CIPPERLY, Sec.

The North Eastern Wis. Beekeepers' Association, will hold its fall meeting at Peewaukee, Wis., on Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 11 and 12. A full attendance is cordially requested. Notice of the place of meeting will be found at the local Post Office.

GEO. CHURCH, Pres., Neenah, Wis.  
FRANCES DUNHAM, Sec., Depere, Wis.

The Northwestern Beekeepers' Association will meet in Chicago, on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 25 and 26. All bee-keepers are cordially invited to attend. It is desired to make this one of the most interesting conventions ever held in the United States. C. C. MILLER, M. D., Pres.  
C. C. COFFINBERRY, Sec.

The Western Michigan Beekeepers' Association will meet in Berlin, Ottawa, Co., Mich., Thursday, Oct. 27, 1881, in Huntley's Hall, at 10:30 a. m. All interested, are cordially invited.

WM. M. S. DODGE, Sec.  
Coopersville, Mich., Aug. 29, 1881.

The Northern Michigan Beekeepers' Association will hold its fourth Annual Convention at Maple Rapids, Clinton Co., Mich., Oct. 11 and 12, 1881.

O. R. GOODNO, Sec.







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Many will be glad to know that Prof. Cook intends to be at the National Convention. His friends in the Southern and Middle States will be glad to make his acquaintance.

It will pay to devote a few hours in getting up a club for the BEE JOURNAL. Read the list of premiums on another page, and take advantage of the fall gatherings to get up clubs.

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